

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 276360

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT - CIVIL AIR NEGOTIATIONS

REF: PANAMA 7026

1. FIRST DAY OF NEGOTIATIONS DEALT EXCLUSIVELY WITH QUESTION OF PANAMANIAN "SUBSTANTIAL OWNERSHIP AND EFFECTIVE CONTROL" OF AIR PANAMA. DEPARTMENT PROVIDED PANAMANIAN DELEGATION WITH A DRAFT PAPER WHICH COVERED SAME GROUND AS EARLIER DISCUSSIONS OF ISSUE IN PANAMA AND SYNTHESIZED U.S. POSITION ON OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL. PANAMA, WHILE AGREEING THAT U.S. HAD THE RIGHT TO RAISE ISSUE OF OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL OF AIR PANAMA, OBJECTED TO IT BEING LINKED DIRECTLY TO DISCUSSIONS ON MEXICO CITY-LOS ANGELES ROUTE AND AIR TRAFFIC RIGHTS FROM MEXICO CITY OR AS PRIOR CONDITION TO PANAMA DESIGNATING AIR PANAMA FOR ITS ROUTE. DURING COURSE OF DISCUSSIONS, BOTH U.S. AND PANAMA RESTATED EARLIER POSITIONS. FIRST DAY SESSION ADJOURNED WITHOUT REACHING AGREEMENT ON OWNERSHIP ISSUE.

2. SECOND DAY SESSION BEGAN WITH U.S. STATEMENT REITERATING OUR INTEREST IN OBTAINING PANAMANIAN RECOGNITION IN WRITING OF U.S. CONCERN OVER OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL

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TION IN WRITING OF U.S. CONCERN OVER OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL

OF AIR PANAMA, BUT DEFERRING FURTHER DISCUSSION OF ISSUE
PENDING DEVELOPMENTS ON PANAMANIAN ROUTE REQUESTS. U.S.
THEN RENEWED ITS OFFER TO PANAMA TO GRANT ROUTE TO LOS
ANGELES VIA MEXICO CITY. WE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT THE

U.S. ITSELF DID NOT HAVE THE KIND OF AIR TRAFFIC RIGHTS
BETWEEN LOS ANGELES AND PANAMA WHICH PANAMA SOUGHT.
NEVERTHELESS, WE WOULD BE WILLING TO GIVE PANAMA'S
REQUEST FOR SUCH RIGHTS FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION AT SUCH
TIME AS THE U.S. WAS ABLE TO NEGOTIATE SIMILAR RIGHTS
WITH MEXICO. PANAMANIAN DELEGATION AFTER ASKING FOR
CLARIFICATION ON CERTAIN DETAILS OF THE U.S. OFFER
INDICATED ITS ACCEPTANCE.

3. THE U.S. SUGGESTED THAT THE POINTS UNDER DISCUSSION --
OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL OF AIR PANAMA AND ROUTE AGREEMENT --
BE REDUCED TO WRITING FOR FINAL DISCUSSION DECEMBER 18.
ON BASIS OF DISCUSSION, SO FAR, IT IS EXPECTED THAT
PANAMA WILL BE ABLE TO ACCEPT U.S. WRITTEN PROPOSALS. KISSINGER

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